

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Formalities

The specification and abstract have been revised to place the application in proper U.S. format and to correct various grammatical and idiomatic errors, including the error noted in item 2 on page 2 of the Official Action.

In addition, the claims have been amended to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors, and to emphasize that the invention, and in particular the bracket, converts a 90 degree fiber optic connector into a 180 degree fiber optic connector upon bending of the pins extending from the “joining” surface of the connector (*i.e.*, the surface that faces the circuit board), as is clearly shown in Figs. 1, 4, and 5.

Because the changes are all formal in nature, or are clearly supported by the original drawings, it is respectfully submitted that the changes do not involve new matter.

2. Rejection of Claims 1-6 Under 35 USC §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,127,073 (Mulholland)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that:

- Applicant’s admitted prior art is a 90 connector (as shown in Fig. 1);
- In order to convert the 90 connector of Fig. 1 into a 180 degree connector, as illustrated in Fig. 4, the invention involves providing a bracket (22) and bending the pins of the 90 degree connector by 90 degrees;
- In contrast, the Mulholland patent discloses an optical connector bracket 9 that can be mounted as a 180 connector bracket or a 90 degree connector bracket It does not teach conversion of a 90 degree connector into a 180 connector by adding a bracket to the 90 degree connector, as claimed. The bracket of

Mulholland is used in both the 90 and 180 configurations. **Nothing** is added to the 90 degree connector to convert it into a 180 degree connector.

The claimed invention provides a very simple way to convert a standard 90 degree optical connector, illustrated in Fig. 1, into a 180 degree optical connector, by *adding* a \sqcap -shaped bracket and bending the pins of the 90 degree connector. In contrast, Mulholland teaches a dual joining-surface connector bracket that can be used two ways rather than simply being added to a bracketless 90 degree connector. There is no suggestion that the type of connector illustrated in Fig. 1 (the admitted prior art) can be converted into an 180 degree connector by adding a bracket, as claimed.

Furthermore, the connector of Mulholland does not have pins extending therefrom, but rather includes an opening for receiving a light source 5. The orientation of the connector depends on the orientation of the light source, rather than on the orientation of pins extending from the joining surface of the connector itself, as is now recited in claim 1 of the present application. While pins on the light source have different orientations for different connector configurations, there is no suggestion in Mulholland of bending pins extending from the connector rather than a light source received in the connector, and certainly no suggestion of modifying the standard connector illustrated in Applicant's Fig. 1 by bending the pins and adding a bracket, as claimed, to achieve a 180 degree configuration.

Because the claimed bracket, bent pins extending from a joining surface, and 180 degree connector configuration are not admitted prior art, and because the Mulholland patent does not suggest modifying the admitted standard connector by adding a bracket (and in particular a \sqcap -shaped bracket), thereby converting the standard 90 degree connector into a 180 connector, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 USC §103(a) is improper and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Serial Number 10/630,743

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Urcia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

By: BENJAMIN E. URCIA
Registration No. 33,805

Date: January 12, 2005

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: (703) 683-0500

NWB:S:\Producer\bae\Pending L...PLULIN 630743\w01.wpd